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In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 13 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15 as follows:

8.   (Amended) A transgenic seed from the transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein the seed comprises the recombinant expression cassette.

9.   (Twice Amended) A method of modulating the level of RAD51C in a plant, comprising:
   (a)   introducing into a plant cell a recombinant expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide of claim 12 operably linked to a promoter;
   (b)   culturing the plant cell under plant cell growing conditions;
   (c)   regenerating a whole plant which possesses the transformed genotype; and
   (d)   inducing expression of said polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate the level of RAD51C in said plant.

12.   (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
   (a)   a polynucleotide having at least 80% sequence identity over the entire length of the reference sequence, as determined by the GAP program under default parameters, to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1;
   (b)   a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;
   (c)   a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1;

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(d)   a polynucleotide which is fully complementary to the polynucleotide of
(a), (b), or (c);

wherein the polynucleotide of (a), (b), (c), or (d) modulates the level of
Rad51C polypeptide.

14.   (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 100 contiguous
nucleotides which selectively hybridizes, under stringent hybridization
conditions and a wash in 0.1X SSC at 60°C, to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID
NO: 1, wherein stringent hybridization conditions comprise 50% formamide,
1M NaCl, and 1% SDS at 37°C, or conditions equivalent thereto, and wherein
the polynucleotide modulates the level of Rad51C polypeptide.

15.   (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 50 contiguous
nucleotides from the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the
polynucleotide modulates the level of Rad51C polypeptide.

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